

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00
CA-01 HEW-04 EB-08 /114 W
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R 231441Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3441
INFO AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 12820

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, ICEM, UNHCR, AO, PO
SUBJECT: REPATRIATION OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES

REF: A. STATE 211546; B. LISBON 6113; C. GENEVA 11860

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY POSED REF A, MISSION HAS COMMUNICATED WITH BOTH ICEM AND UNHCR WHO HAVE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE PROGRAM FOR REPATRIATION OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES. DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH, IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO, TO REVIEW REF C IN THIS REGARD.

2. ICEM STATED THAT THEY WERE EXPECTING A PROGRAM WHICH WOULD MOVE BETWEEN 2,000 AND 3,000 SUCH REFUGEES AT A PER CAPITA COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$400, THUS ESTABLISHING FUNDING REQUIREMENT OF BETWEEN \$800,000 AND 1.2 MILLION. TO MEET THIS, UNHCR HAS INDICATED THAT IT WILL PROVIDE
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\$220,000 TO THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT (UNHCR ITSELF GIVES FIGURE AS \$228,000). HOWEVER, ICEM STATES THAT AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF THESE "REFUGEES" (PERSONAL ESTIMATE IS 40 PERCENT TO 50 PERCENT) ARE EITHER PORTUGUESE NATIONALS OR NON-POLITICAL REFUGEES, AND THEREFORE DO NOT FALL WITHIN THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S MANDATE. IN ADDITION TO THE UNHCR CONTRIBUTION, THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING AVAILABLE

\$75,000 ACCORDING TO ICEM (UNHCR GIVES FIGURE AS \$70,000), WHILE ICEM IS COMMITTED FOR A \$40,000 CONTRIBUTION, WHICH IT IS EXPECTING TO RECEIVE FROM A "SCANDINAVIAN GOVERNMENT". THUS, A TOTAL OF \$335,000 IS EXPECTED TO DATE.

3. ICEM STATES THAT THROUGH AUGUST 17, 407 PERSONS HAD BEEN MOVED, WITH 143 MORE SLATED FOR THE NEXT BATCH WHICH IS EXPECTED TO PROCEED IN A WEEK TO TEN DAYS. IT NOTED THAT IT HAD ALSO RETURNED 12 PEOPLE TO CAPE VERDE FROM PORTUGAL, AND 16 TO MOZAMBIQUE. IT ESTIMATES THAT AS MANY AS 300 TO 400 COULD BE EXPECTED TO SEEK REPATRIATION TO MOZAMBIQUE.

4. UNHCR ADDED TO FOREGOING INFORMATION ONLY THAT IT ANTICIPATED A FLIGHT ABOUT EVERY TWO WEEKS, CARRYING APPROXIMATELY 100 PEOPLE EACH. UNHCR REP STATED THAT THEY VIEWED THIS OPERATION NOW PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY. VANDEN HEUVEL

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